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KEVIN-SKOLNICK INTERVIEW

TUESDAY, APRIL 14, 1970

ART KEVIN KHJ
RADIO NEWS
LOS ANGELES

KEVIN: This will be an interview with Mr. Sherman Skolnick of Chicago, a Court Critic and Legal Researcher.

Mr. Skolnick, exactly one week ago the suit you filed in Federal Court in Chicago really took the nation by storm and I wonder if you could tell us where you are one week later?

SKOLNICK: Well, it seems that the suit did one thing for those that have researched very long in this field. It has revived a lot of what they call the Kennedy Buff. Sort of put the oxygen to them because they've long contended that there was a conspiracy and we went into fresh ground and, through documents, showed there was indeed a conspiracy in Chicago three weeks before Dallas to kill the President.

KEVIN: Those of us, Mr. Skolnick, that have tried to keep track of all the events and details ever since the assassination can recall that there allegedly were three plots; one of which started in Florida, and then the site of the assassination was allegedly changed to Chicago, and from there to Dallas where, of course, it was successful. Is that the general geography that you follow?

SKOLNICK: Well, not quite. It seems, from our standpoint, that everything started in Chicago. And, of course, we're closer to it in that we here are working on all the Kennedy angles from Chicago. By we, I'm talking about myself

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as a part-time instructor at a college here and my students and people that we associate with.

KEVIN: Now, your research, Mr. Skolnick, has indicated that there were how many assassins?

SKOLNICK: Four, possibly five. There was a person known as Lee Harvey Oswald; there was a Bradley, alias Braden; there was a man named Gonzalez; and a person that could be mistaken for Oswald by the name of Thomas Arthur Vallee who drove a car with New York plates linked or registered to the name of Lee Harvey Oswald.

KEVIN: As you know, here in the Los Angeles area, a man who was sought by District Attorney Jim Garrison was named Edgar Eugene Bradley. Now, you gave the Bradley name with an alias of Braden. Could it be Bradley or is this an area of confusion?

SKOLNICK: Well, it's one or the other of these people who not only have similar names but, shall we say, have some similarity in appearance too.

KEVIN: I gather that in your research, Mr. Skolnick, you have seen the pictures that Jim Garrison first showed and I understand were available also prior to that. The pictures of people who appear to be handcuffed and led off by officers in and around the Dallas Texas Schoolbook Depository Building within 15 minutes or so of the assassination itself. Now, do any of the men depicted in those pictures purport to be some of the people that you have named?

SKOLNICK: Well, I'd rather not answer that. That goes beyond the scope of what we filed in court and that is something I'd rather not comment on.

KEVIN: What has happened to you ever since you filed the brief one week ago? Has your life gone topsy-turvy or what?

SKOLNICK: We have received calls from all over. And we've gotten a great deal of correspondence. It seems that every Kennedy Buff in the country wanted to search us out and tell us about their private theory which now has new life in it, supposedly. Or, a lot of them express shock in talking -- calling me -- that they had completely overlooked any Chicago angle. Many of them have been laboring very hard over well-trod ground. In other words, they keep going over and over the Warren Report as compared to the 26 Volumes of Evidence and they keep trying to knit-pick that to death over the last seven years.

KEVIN: Those of us that have been following the Garrison investigation right up to the time that Clay Shaw went into court had some inference that Chicago was involved in some way, shape, or form with the assassination itself. Now, you said a few minutes ago that, as far as you were concerned, the plot began in Chicago. Is that correct?

SKOLNICK: I would say that's pretty close to it. We've got one document we put in the court record which is -- will raise a few eyebrows. It shows a collect phone call from the

Dallas jail, made by Lee Harvey Oswald (or the person going under that name), the day after the assassination, November 23rd. He made the call to a John David Hurt who has a background of being a special agent for the U.S. Military Counter Intelligence. The reason it's interesting is because Oswald's mother for seven years has been making statements like that and very few in the news media or in the country have paid much attention to her.

KEVIN: So, you are saying essentially then -- let's see if we can recap part of what the suit really is all about -- that there were anywhere from say three to five assassins or potential assassins.

SKOLNICK: In other words, we're saying that the Warren Report is void because there are documents in the Archives, some of which are being arbitrarily released in their own good time, which show that there was a plot in Chicago to kill Kennedy three weeks before Dallas. We're asking that the rest of the Chicago plot documents be released. They released some of them. Now we want the rest of them.

KEVIN: As I recall, President Kennedy was to attend the -- I believe it was the Army-Navy football game --

SKOLNICK: Air Force football game, right.

KEVIN: -- Air Force football game. Didn't -- wasn't that trip put off allegedly due to a cold by the President?

SKOLNICK: Yes, that's true. However, there are some of the news media that immediately suspected that that was a

1 cover story and that there was something more to it.

2 KEVIN: I do believe that that was actually a statement

3 to that effect was made sometime later on that they had lied

4 and told a tiny lie or a white lie as they called it.

5 SKOLNICK: Well, the point is this. The plot in Chicago

6 was, in part, aborted by the activities of a Daniel Groth who,

7 shall we say, is known as a policeman. He is the one that had

8 something to do with the Black Panther raid last December 4th

9 resulting in the death of Fred Hampton and Mark Clark. And

10 that's a disturbing link there to find his name linked into

11 this, and we entered a document into the court record that

12 shows the link.

13 KEVIN: Would that link then allege that Daniel Groth

14 might have been in, or a part of, this team?

15 SKOLNICK: Let's put it this way. His activities aborted

16 the plot to the benefit of the assassins.

17 KEVIN: Do you know where Mr. Groth is now?

18 SKOLNICK: Oh, he's with the Chicago Police Department,

19 allegedly.

20 KEVIN: Have you attempted to get ahold of him?

21 SKOLNICK: He's been interviewed by various people in

22 Chicago who have published stories recently about him. He

23 claims that he doesn't know, for example, how in this one

24 police report, right under Thomas Arthur Vallee's name, in

25 the alias column, is simply M-1 rifle which we contend is

26 possibly a password, and Groth says he doesn't remember how

that got in there. Further than that, he -- we contend in our Complaint that he used to hang around the Secret Service office. You know, like he owned the place. And he says he doesn't even know where the Secret Service office is in Chicago.

KEVIN: Mr. Skolnick, at the time that Clay Shaw was cleared of the charges Jim Garrison had made against him in New Orleans, Garrison apparently was hot and heavy on the trail of something in and around Chicago. So, I would ask you, did you have any kind of knowledge of what you're currently doing provided to you by Mr. Garrison or anybody from his office?

SKOLNICK: No.

KEVIN: So this is strictly an independent effort?

SKOLNICK: Yes. We went over what we thought is completely fresh ground. We didn't want to get hung up with the other Warren Report critics who have spent a great deal of time and labor knit-picking the Report to death and not -- you know, they just got into a dead end. And we tried to stay out of that dead end.

KEVIN: Would you say, in light of what you have filed in court and in light of what you have found out so far, that D.A. Jim Garrison was on the right trail or not?

SKOLNICK: Well, I could comment about some of the things I've discovered about his work which I feel were very -- his work was very inadequate. And it may well be that his work was inadequate because of a lot of his witnesses suddenly, you know, fell off a cliff and died under mysterious circumstances.

1 It may be that was the problem. In any case, we are centered
2 on the Chicago angle, the black Secret Service agent that was
3 falsly imprisoned to keep him from talking to the Warren
4 Commission lives in this area, Klein's Sporting Goods that's
5 mentioned in the Warren Report is right here in Chicago,
6 several of Ruby's relatives are here. So you can see that I
7 and the class that I teach -- we have a lot cut out for us
8 right here.
9 KEVIN: I want to get back to the black Secret Service
10 agent in a moment, but let me throw this question at you first.
11 Does your investigation in Chicago show that there was any
12 linkage -- linkage if you will -- with those in Chicago and
13 Jack Ruby and/or anyone in and around the New Orleans area?
14 SKOLNICK: Well, that's a series -- that requires a
15 series of answers that I would prefer not to go into now.
16 I'd rather not tip my hand on that.
17 KEVIN: In other words, we wouldn't be out of the ball-
18 park though if people were to assume that?
19 SKOLNICK: No. I mean that's -- it's a fair assumption.
20 KEVIN: Are you going to take action in any other state
21 other than Chicago?
22 SKOLNICK: In respect to the Warren Report?
23 KEVIN: Well, I'm thinking in respect to anything. For
24 example, out of Chicago that might be in the jurisdiction of
25 another state like Texas or Louisiana.
26 SKOLNICK: I can't foresee that at this point because we

are claiming that it was a Chicago plot, we are attaching three documents recently declassified from the National Archives, we're attaching other documents that are supposedly what is locked up in the Archives. In effect what we have done, we have more or less rolled up to the front door of the Archives by way of the Federal Court, of course, and said, "Now look Archives we know what you've got locked up there. In fact, here's a sample of what you've got locked up. Here's a sample of what you have released recently, and this all indicates a good idea of what else you've got locked up there. Now, under the Public Information Law, please give us the rest of what you've got. That's about the gist of it.

KEVIN: Was Clay Shaw involved in any of the digging that you've done so far?

SKOLNICK: Not in the Chicago angles that we know.

KEVIN: He could have been involved though in -- in other ways?

SKOLNICK: Well, the point is, when the plot in Chicago was aborted they simply -- they moved it from here to Dallas and there they played their scene all over again.

KEVIN: Was David W. Ferrie involved in any way in what happened in Dallas?

SKOLNICK: Well, there's one angle in Chicago that he -- could be thought of that he was involved. In Chicago, now, we're -- our thing is Chicago based. In other words, we're working all the Chicago angles.

KEVIN: Well, at the time that Mr. Ferrie was still alive he claimed that Garrison had him nabbed as the "getaway pilot" and he apparently was supposed to be in and around the Dallas area, apparently through Houston in order to ferry out an assassin or assassins by plane. Does this theoretically still seem to hold in the investigation you have done so far?

SKOLNICK: Well, as I say, there's a Chicago angle to that situation.

KEVIN: Do you find any other links to any persons whose names have not surfaced in the investigations of the past half dozen years?

SKOLNICK: Well, this one person, Thomas Arthur Vallee, was not even in the index to the Archives until maybe a year ago. And then a few months ago, for the first time, these documents came out showing his name and mentioning a Vallee and Oswald in the same document. And then we were told that the release of those three documents from the Archives was the most monumental blunder in the history of the country. Somebody really goofed.

KEVIN: This also gives me cause to ask you a question about this, Mr. Skolnick. Jim Garrison maintained, and I think a lot of the critics maintain, that by this time, were there any kind of a plot that really existed to kill the President, that whatever is in the Archives would certainly have been subverted to a point where it wouldn't be recognizable any more and certainly of no -- you know, general

1 public interest. Do you think then that this was just that --
2 and oversight -- as you mentioned?
3 SKOLNICK: Well, the point is that only knowledgeable
4 people would see the relationship to those three documents
5 and the Chicago plot. There are few, if any, among what they
6 call the Kennedy Buffs that thought there was ever a plot in
7 Chicago. They all were working, you know, Dealy Plaza in
8 Dallas, New Orleans, Florida. In other words, they were work-
9 ing other angles and they really reached a dead end. And since
10 we live in Chicago, it was rather natural for us to work the
11 Chicago angles and apparently we've done so with some small
12 amount of success.
13 KEVIN: Can we assume then that the Chicago plotters then
14 moved on to Dallas when President Kennedy didn't attend that
15 football game and carried out their deed in Dallas or was it
16 a different team or an addendum team, if you will?
17 SKOLNICK: Well, one or both. But the point is, it was
18 similar in that one of them, like this fellow Vallee, was the
19 patsy or the pigeon. He was going to draw off the heat so
20 that the case, if needed to be aborted, they could -- the
21 others could go free and then he, on one device or another,
22 would also go free. And, of course, in the case of Vallee,
23 he did. He went free on a five dollar traffic ticket.
24 KEVIN: And Vallee was the look-alike you say to Oswald?
25 SKOLNICK: True.
26 KEVIN: Now, are these men that you've named now, Gonzalez,

Bradley, and Thomas Vallee, are they alive and well and still being sought by you? Do you know where they are?

SKOLNICK: Well, the point is that that is the name they go under. Oswald -- there's some six Oswalds in my opinion. Were. And someone did a very fantastically good plastic surgery job, by the way.

KEVIN: In other words, this would follow then the Popkin theory from San Diego. Is that correct? About the multiplicity of Oswalds.

SKOLNICK: I've read his book but the point is, all those theories are based on knit-picking the Warren Report rather than going over new ground, and I did not want to get into that -- what I call a quagmire, because it is quite a quagmire. You get bogged down in those 26 volumes of various, you know, different ideas and you sometimes don't come out. There are some of the Warren Report critics, after seven years, are still bogged down there.

KEVIN: Well, it's been a week now since you've filed your suit. Obviously, the government has not responded or, at least, any further legal steps haven't come about yet. Is that correct?

SKOLNICK: Well, only partly so because they tried during the week to send back to prison the black Secret Service agent that we said was falsly imprisoned to set him up about this. Abraham Bolden. There was a great hullabaloo about that Tuesday and thankfully he's not in jail. I mean, they wanted

1 to revoke his probation for supposedly having talked to me.
2 I mean, that's their presumption.
3 KEVIN: Well, Abraham Bolden, if I recall correctly, had
4 claimed to Attorney Mark Lane that he had proof positive that
5 at least one Secret Service Man was actually involved in what
6 was going on with regards to the death of President Kennedy;
7 correct?
8 SKOLNICK: When we know the circumstances of what happened
9 to that other Secret Service agent, and what happened to Bolden
10 himself was that he was sent to prison on the charge of seeking
11 to sell certain Secret Service records to a counterfeiter and
12 that counterfeiter was the only major witness against Bolden.
13 And after Bolden was convicted and sentenced, that counter-
14 feiter, in another case, confessed perjury. And the most
15 monsterous injustice took place. The Federal Judge involved
16 here said that confession of perjury was not relevant. I find
17 that just herendous but there it is.
18 KEVIN: Well, is Mr. Bolden in hiding now in Chicago?
19 SKOLNICK: Well, his -- Bolden's address and all that are
20 unlisted, that's true, but he's lived in the same place a long
21 time.
22 KEVIN: You know, with the information that he apparently
23 possesses, I wonder why the Federal authorities would have
24 released him at all.
25 SKOLNICK: Well, that's a good question. He served
26 39 months. They let him out on a probation period which he

has about two and a half years to go yet, and they tried to revoke that -- at least it seemed like they tried to last week.

(Telephone disconnected.)

KEVIN: Hello. Hello. Keep it rolling while I get the operator back.

(Kevin dialing.)

OPERATOR: Operator.

KEVIN: Yes, I was on LD to Chicago and disconnected, Operator.

OPERATOR: I'm terribly sorry. What number were you connected with?

KEVIN: (312) 375-5741.

OPERATOR: And was that station to station?

KEVIN: That was on a person to person call.

OPERATOR: To whom, please?

KEVIN: Mr. Skolnick, S-k-o-l-n-i-c-k. Calling number is 462-8744.

OPERATOR: Okay. And that was billed to the number you're calling from?

KEVIN: Correct, yes.

OPERATOR: All right. Thank you. I'll see if I can get him back for you.

KEVIN: Thank you.

OPERATOR: There will be an adjustment made.

KEVIN: Thank you.

(Phone ringing.)

SKOLNICK: Hello --

OPERATOR: Mr. Skolnick?

SKOLNICK: -- we got cut off somehow.

KEVIN: Yeah, we got cut off somehow.

OPERATOR: Okay. Go ahead.

KEVIN: Thank you.

Okay, I'm sorry. Listen, let me just pick up again so we can tie this interview together and wrap it up, okay?

SKOLNICK: All right.

KEVIN: Many of us, Mr. Skolnick, have wondered why the government released Mr. Bolden in the first place, would he have had this information that he purports to have.

SKOLNICK: Well, as we state in the Complaint, he has the information in a 50-page handwritten statement locked away in case something happens to him.

KEVIN: And you are apprised of what is in that statement I trust?

SKOLNICK: Well, I would answer that indirectly by stating that I'm aware of the fact that he who steals State secrets can be sent 10 years to prison. So, I've got to be careful on answering such a question.

KEVIN: Well, now that you are on this -- what I trust will prove to be a new phase of the investigation which may open up many areas of the Archives which heretofore have

not been opened up -- I trust you're going to keep on this thing and, historically, from other investigations you've done in and around Chicago, you're not the kind of guy that gives up.

SKOLNICK: That's true. There is a news magazine that has just gone to press with a quote from somebody in the Archives claiming that they don't have any conspiracies locked up. Supposedly, the people that run the Archives are not supposed to know what's locked up in there. So, I don't know, wonder of wonders, there's all kinds of information that's jumping loose as a result of our suit.

KEVIN: Have you heard anything from anybody at all connected with -- for example, Senator Ted Kennedy or any of the late friends of the President?

SKOLNICK: Well, I can answer that by saying we've had a great number of communications from interested parties, and I'd rather not identify who all they are.

KEVIN: Well, of those that -- you know -- might have been close to the former President, Robert Kennedy or to Ted Kennedy, would you say that the interest is one of, "why don't you leave it alone" or "what more have you got"?

SKOLNICK: Well, I had the feeling that the Kennedys knew everything. And, that because they might have thought that there was a possibility of government complicity in the thing -- that is that there was one Secret Service agent believed to have planned the assassination and

1 somehow or another another Secret Service agent that knew a
2 little bit about this was instead sent to jail on a false
3 rap -- I think that particular family, from what all that I
4 can understand, takes the position that nothing in our time
5 could be done about it and it was just as well they have it
6 locked up for 75 years on a sort of a patriotic hangup. I
7 know a week before we filed our Complaint, some person that
8 heard about our work that had also been assisting us, tried
9 to give us the patriotic hangup, you know, "don't -- don't
10 smash up the country." But I think it's important to this
11 country that the information -- the truth of this come
12 out -- wherever the chips may fall. And as it seems there
13 was a conspiracy and therefore the Warren Report is void
14 and therefore the quicker we get at that and get that
15 reventilated in the public the better for the country. I
16 think the people of this country are smart enough to digest
17 that without getting all choked up.
18 KEVIN: Thank you very much Sherman Skolnick.
19 SKOLNICK: Thank you.
20 KEVIN: Sherman, hold on; hold on just a second.
21 Nope. Okay.
22
23
24
25
26